THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 17th July 1953.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half-past nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Improvement of the Malnad villages in South Kanara district.

* 583 *Q.*—SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the South Kanara Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee constituted by the Government in 1948 to suggest ways and means of improving the Malnad villages of the district;

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement those recommendations; and

(*c*) if no steps have been taken, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Twenty-three items are set out in a statement[a] placed on the table of the House."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY:—" Sir, in the printed statement placed on the table of the House, it is stated in item 15 that the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Collector of South Kanara have been requested to give wide publicity regarding the concession for free removal of green leaves from the reserved forests from the special coupes reserved for the purpose. But recently, Government have passed an order prohibiting people from entering the Reserved Forests with sickles. Are the Government aware that without the sickles it is not possible to remove green leaves and in view of this will the Government be pleased to cancel that order?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, the Forest Officers will try to do their best to prevent cutting down of trees and infringement of normal rules, at the same time giving effect to the permission for removing green leaves. I am personally quite sure that sickles are not necessary for the removal of green leaves. A lighter weapon would be enough."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI:—" Is it a fact that the Central Government officials recently made a proposal for the improvement of agricultural lands in Malnad, provided the Provincial Government came forward with a nominal grant and that this government could not agree to the proposal?"

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 543–544 infra.

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I would like the hon. Member to put a separate question. I will look into it carefully, Sir."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether they are special sickles or ordinary sickles could be used for cutting green leaves."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The meaning of the word ' sickle ' in the English language is slightly confusing. I would rather use the term that is used in my own district, i.e., ' matchu katti,' which is bad, but ' aruval ' would be good."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that there is a lot of illicit cutting of trees in Wynaad—I don't know whether Wynaad is included in Malnad—and will the Government please conduct an enquiry? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The Government are quite aware of a good number of illegal practices arising out of poverty and arising out of concern of the Government to conserve forests. An enquiry will not help us. What is wanted is administration and public opinion."

SRI M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" In item 2 of the printed statement, it is stated that a Special Officer was appointed for the preparation of a plan for the development of cottage industries in the Malnad area. May I know when the officer was appointed and whether he has submitted any plan to Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The answer was prepared sometime ago and at that time it was ascertained that a Special Officer was appointed temporarily for one year. I am not at present in a position to answer the question just now put."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" May I inform the Chief Minister that the cutting I referred to was not by poor people, but by powerful capitalist interests? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, very probably the capitalist interests are organising the poor people for the purpose."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Are the Government prepared to grant permission to the poor people who want to construct houses in the Government special coupes? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Yes, Sir, permission will be granted in selected places."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Will the Government fix at least the size of the sickles to be used by the people for removing leaves in reserved forests, instead of banning all kinds of sickles? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Nothing much depends on the length and breadth of the weapon; it depends on many other factors. It is not possible to lay down rules in this respect. We have to give discretion to the local officials."

Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee.

* 584 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state— 9-40 a.m.

(*a*) whether a Committee called "The Forest Grievances Enquiry Committee" was constituted by order of the Government, dated 10th April 1950, to investigate the problems relating to the Malnad areas and to suggest measures required to solve them;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to publish the report, if any, submitted by the Committee; and

(*c*) what action the Government propose to take on the recommendations contained therein?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The report is voluminous and the Government have taken steps thereon and do not consider it necessary to print it.

" (*c*) Please refer to my answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) of the Starred Assembly Question No. 583."

SRI K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA:—" In view of the criticism that the economic potential of Malnad has not been adequately tapped and that because of the remoteness of the seat of administration, Malnad does not receive the attention of Government in respect of ordinary amenities in spite of the fact that it is a surplus tract in the matter of public revenue and expenditure, will the Government consider the desirability of constituting a Malnad Development Board to give special attention to the backward conditions existing in the Malnad area?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Government will consider the matter very carefully and sympathetically also, Sir."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD:—" Will the report of the Forest Committee be placed on the table of this House for the perusal of hon. Members?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, I said that the report is very voluminous. I wonder how it can be placed on the table of the House, either manuscript or typescript. I will see what can be done. Hon. Members will have every facility to go through it."